posts filled by them and suggested that the retrenchments recommended by the Salaries Committee in respect of them should be brought into immediate effect. The allotment for the Department of Agriculture, which should be specially encouraged by Government, was insufficient, and with a view to increase the production of paddy in the State, Government should themselves undertake the cultivation of waste lands including such areas as could be thrown open from reserved forests. In conclusion, the Member stated that the funds for meeting the increased expenses of the Government could be found by (1) a reduction in the number and pay of the higher officers, (2) the conservation of forests and the increase of yield from them, (3) the development of agriculture, (4) the encouragement of industries, (5) the levy of export duty on the products of the State, (6) refusal to participate in the Cochin Harbour scheme and similar projects not directly advantageous to the State, (7) giving contracts for P. W. D. works to local bodies in preference to foreign contractors and (8) the abolition of unnecessary appointments in the P. W. D.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's general observations have already been anticipated by the previous speakers and nothing need be said in reply to them. In regard to the particular matters which the Member has mentioned, if the Member had sent in a detailed memorandum in time, a reply could have been prepared. I may, in this connection, state that the Member is wrong in saying that, in regard to the house tax to be imposed in Municipalities, Government passed an order enabling major Municipalities to levy that tax only at 2½ per cent, while compelling the minor Municipalities to levy it at 3 per cent. No such order has been passed. In the matter of Municipal taxation, Municipal Councils have been given a free hand in regard to fixing the rates. A Conference of the Presidents of Municipalities was held, and certain decisions were arrived at. These decisions were forwarded to all the Municipal Councils for observance. The Councils were told that Government would be glad if they could conform to the rates proposed by the Conference. In the case of individual Councils which did not wish to conform to the proposals of the Conference, their recommendations have been sanctioned.

7. Some suggestions for the improvement and conservation of the finances of the State and on the adoption of measures for controlling expenditure.

Mr. P. Jacob Kurien (Member, Nominated) prefaced his remarks by stating that the European war had greatly affected the financial position of all countries and peoples and that all Governments were seriously engaged in finding out the most effective means of consolidating and increasing their resources. It was, therefore, nothing strange that Travancore should emulate other countries in this matter and adopt all measures calculated to accelerate the progress of the State. The line of policy proposed to be pursued by Government was indicated in the Dewan's opening address to the Assembly and he heartily endorsed every word of it as, in his opinion, it was a thing that all responsible citizens were bound to do. But the successful carrying out of that policy required money and it would be difficult to find the necessary funds unless the people heartily co-operated with the Government. It was meaningless to insist on reforms without being ready to shoulder the financial burden which those reforms entailed. The increase of taxes in the State was adversely criticised by some people mainly because they were not satisfied with the sources tapped by Government for finding additional funds. The cry itself was not justifiable in the face of the fact that most of the representations made to Government advocated lengthy programmes of administrative reform which required a very large expenditure of money; but he would suggest to the Government the desirability of leaving aside petty and negligible sources of income and the need for concentrating their energy on the exploitation of prominent and substantial ones. He earnestly hoped that this aspect of the matter would not escape the attention of Government. He then suggested that, in order to improve the economic condition of the people, the forest and mineral resources of the State should be exploited more profitably, that agriculture should be developed, that more lands, especially out of reserved forests, should be thrown open for cultivation, that a portion of such lands should be cultivated by Government agency through the Agricultural Department, and that cocoanut trees, etc., should be

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planted on the road sides in lieu of mere shade-giving ones, which was the present practice. He also observed that a bold policy in regard to the extension of railway communication in the State would add to the resources of the people. As regards the statement often made that Travancore suffered from the importation of foreigners as Dewans, the Member stoutly repudiated it and observed that the statement would not bear examination. It did not matter whether a particular Dewan was a Travancorean or a non-Travancorean. The test lay in the work he did, and so far as that was concerned, he would boldly assert that the people were largely benefited by the administration of foreign Dewans. It could not be ignored that, though a Dewan was a foreigner, the Heads of the various Departments were all natives and that it was those officers that practically shaped his policy. What had to be recognised was the hard fact that those who worked sincerely for the advancement of the people in the State should be regarded as Travancoreans. Any one who had watched the progress of administration during the past 18 months could easily see that the sole aim of the present administration was the promotion of the welfare of the people. In conclusion, the Member expressed satisfaction at the Dewan's announcement in his opening address that the orders of the Government in regard to the separation of Devaswoms from the Land Revenue Department would issue shortly.

Dewan's reply.—You have made several personal references to me in the course of your speech. I therefore feel a certain amount of delicacy in replying to your speech. I am thankful to you for the kind words you have said about me. I am glad that the Assembly realises that I am here to do what I consider in the inmost recesses of my heart to be for the good of Travancore. I do not deny the fact that I am a foreigner. But being for the time being in Travancore, I look upon myself as a Travancorean as much as any one of you. I would request you to cast out of your mind the idea that I am a foreigner and that my policy is not what it would be if I were a Travancorean.

I am glad that you recognise the need for increasing the revenues of the State. You have also done great service in emphasising the need for a mentality on the part of the people to co-operate with the Government. This is the *sine qua non* of all progress in the State. Government are not above making mistakes. The mistakes must be pointed out. Unless you co-operate with the Government and point out the mistakes in a responsible spirit, no real progress is possible.

I am also glad of one or two constructive suggestions made by you. You have referred to my address at the last session of the Assembly. In that address I stated that the policy I wished to adopt was the development of the resources of the State and the expansion of the area under cultivation. We have to proceed step by step. The Government are in earnest, and not inactive in that direction. You must remember that the development of the resources of a country means initial outlay. Money should be found for meeting this outlay, and that is my difficulty. I do recognise that small taxes are an irritation and should be avoided. They are, however, unavoidable, if they constitute the only means of increasing the State's revenues.

II. MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

(1) Land Revenue.

8. Grievances of the people under the Land Conservancy Regulation.

Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai (Member, Nedumangad Taluk) said that *tharisu* lands, which had been in the *bona fide* occupation of the people for more than 30 years and which contained valuable improvements, had come to be included in reserved forests in his taluk and that the occupants were evicted under the Land Conservancy Regulation in certain cases. On the other hand, large areas of land within reserved forests had been and were proposed to be disafforested and assigned to certain influential men, in utter disregard of all principles of forest conservancy. A careful examination would show that within many of the reserved forests there were still large areas of swampy lands fit

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